

draw lever is pivoted from its closed position against the deck plate to an open position. This requires a lot of force, and in many (including heavy duty) applications it is often not practical to operate the release mechanism by hand. Blue does not disclose a locking mechanism with a latching member that moves axially relative to the reel between an unlocked position and a locked position. This 1) allows the latch to more readily engage and disengage from the sidewalls of the reel under the forces typically encountered by such a device in operation, 2) allows the device of the invention to be adapted to fit boat hulls of various thicknesses just by changing the length of the button so the device can be mounted to any boat, and 3) allows the release mechanism to be operated by the user's foot, which means the weight of the user can be used to actuate the release mechanism, and is more practical based on the location of the device.

Favourable reconsideration and allowance of the claims filed on May 14, 2007 are requested.

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